

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)

Kenji KAWANO et al.)

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned)

Filed: December 26, 2001)

For: **APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING
SUBSTRATE AND METHOD OF
PROCESSING THE SAME**)

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned



**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231**

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following is a concise statement of relevance for each of the non-English language documents:

1. Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-38644 - discloses a method to reduce the amount of evaporated acid by heating a substrate under high pressure in a heating chamber.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

2. Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-146444 - discloses an apparatus for heating a substrate with an inner plate having a large number of openings. An English-language abstract of each document is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 26, 2001

By: 

Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744

Enclosures
RVB/FPD/sci

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

254679-1

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	04329.2718	Serial No.	Not Yet Assigned
Applicants	Kenji KAWANO et al.		
Filing Date	December 26, 2001	Group:	Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PTO
10/026419
12/26/01

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	6,072,162	06/06/00	ITO et al.			
	6,191,397 B1	02/20/01	HAYASAKI et al.			
	6,301,435 B1	10/09/01	ITO et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
11-38644	02/12/99	JAPAN			ABSTRACT
2000-146444	05/26/00	JAPAN			ABSTRACT

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

ITO, S. et al., "Heating Method", U.S. Serial No.: 09/573,227, Filed: May 19, 2000, Specification - 46 pages, and 7 sheets of drawings
ITO, S. et al., "Device and Method for Heating Substrate, and Method for Treating Substrate", U.S. Serial No.: 09/352,323, Filed: July 12, 1999, Specification - 45 pages, and 7 sheets of drawings
HAYASAKI, K. et al., "Heating Device, Method for Evaluating Heating Device and Pattern Forming Method", U.S. Serial No.: 09/345,749, Filed: July 1, 1999, Specification - 78 pages, and 16 sheets of drawings
KIHARA, N. et al., "Effect of Acid Evaporation in Chemically Amplified Resists on Insoluble Layer Formation", Journal of Photopolymer Science and Technology, Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 561-570, (1995).

Examiner	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce